

**ORDINANCE 13 – 2013**  
**WATER & WASTEWATER SCHEDULE OF FEES**

AMEND ORDINANCE 11 – 2013 WATER & WASTEWATER SCHEDULE OF FEES TO ADOPT NEW WATER & WASTEWATER RATES AND FEES AS HERETO ENCLOSED AND TO HOLD AN ADVISORY REFERENDUM FOR A FUTURE WATER & WASTEWATER RATE.

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Estill continues to make diligent efforts to capitalize, manage, operate and maintain its water & wastewater system; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Estill finds the need to substantially rehabilitate its water & wastewater system; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Estill shall not fund, at this time, approximately \$2,100,000 in capital improvements to provide for such partial rehabilitation of its water & wastewater system; and,

**WHEREAS**, the current water & wastewater rates are not sufficient to fund current operations, maintenance, and existing debt; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council has conducted three public hearings to inform its water & wastewater customers of the need for increased water & wastewater rates to fund needed capital improvements, provide total cost funding of existing operations, existing debt service, and maintenance; and,

**WHEREAS**, such public hearings indicate resistance by some customers to fund the water & wastewater system with such rates that support the needed capital improvements and provide funding for existing debt service, operations and maintenance, the Town Council finds it necessary to reduce expected expenditures by approximately \$427,948.24 and increase water & wastewater rates through a new schedule of fees.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Town of Estill finds it necessary to establish such new rates and charges herein to fund the anticipated cost of operations, maintenance and existing debt service.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the hereafter schedule of fees shall become effective immediately upon approval of this Ordinance by the Mayor & Town Council and shall be reflected in the billings to customers beginning with the bills sent out in September 2013.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that any new schedule of fees further adopted after September 4, 2013 shall occur after the advisory referendum is adjudicated in a special election in November 2013.

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**Section 1.**

- A. The Town shall conduct an advisory referendum on the question of the further increase of the rates for water and wastewater services.
- B. The Town Administrator shall request that the County election commission place the question on a special elections referendum ballot in November 2013.
- C. The State election laws shall apply to the referendum, mutatis mutandis.
- D. The question put before the voters shall read as follows:

- ☐ Fund current operations, maintenance, existing debt plus proposed \$2.1 million capital improvements debt as outlined in Ordinance 11 – 2013 Schedule of Fees, adopted July 11, 2013. This is the most expensive option, but is the “clear water” option or
- ☐ Fund current operations, maintenance plus current debt  
This is the next most expensive option, but does not fund the “clear water” option or
- ☐ Fund revised operations, maintenance plus current debt with approximate \$427,948.24 reduction in operations and maintenance funding. This is the least expensive option, but does not fund the “clear water” option.

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**Section 2.**

<b>Monthly Billing Rates and Charges for Water</b>		
Base Charge of \$4.55 per ERU*		
Debt Service Charge of \$6.56 per ERU*		
Administration Charge of \$2.00 per Account		
Quantity	\$/1000 gallons Reg. Customer	\$/1000 gallons for Prison
1 - 2,000 gallons	3.50	3.50
2,001 - 5,000 gallons	3.50	3.50
5,001 – 10,000 gallons	3.50	3.50
10,001 – 20,000 gallons	3.50	3.50
Over 20,000 gallons	3.50	3.50

ERU = Equivalent Residential Unit

<b>Monthly Billing Rates and Charges for Wastewater</b>		
Base Charge of \$5.46 per ERU*		
Debt Service Charge of \$1.48 per ERU*		
Quantity	\$/1000 gallons Reg. Customer	\$/1000 gallons for Prison
1 - 2,000 gallons	4.20	4.20
2,001 – 5,000 gallons	4.20	4.20
5,001 – 10,000 gallons	4.20	4.20
10,0001 – 20,000 gallons	4.20	4.20
Over 20,000 gallons	4.20	4.20

ERU = Equivalent Residential Unit

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**Section 3.**

**Debt Service**

Any bond amount for water and wastewater projects funded by State Revolving Loan Program, USDA Rural Development and/or other revenue bonds including all engineering fees and set up fees shall be shown as a separate line item on the water and wastewater bill.

**Administration Charge**

An administration charge of two dollars (\$2.00) will be charged to each account for meter reading, the preparation of the water and wastewater bill and other administrative duties.

**Overhead Sprinkler Systems**

The charge for any overhead sprinkler systems installed in any facilities inside the town limits other than single family residences shall be twenty dollars (\$20.00) per month for any area up to and including ten thousand (10,000) square feet and two dollars (\$2.00) per additional one thousand (1,000) square feet. The charge for any overhead sprinkler systems in any facilities outside the town limits other than single family residences shall be thirty (\$30.00) per month for any area up to and including ten thousand (10,000) square feet and three dollars (\$3.00) per additional one thousand (1,000) square feet.

**Tap-In Fees**

Water and wastewater tap-in fees shall be charged on the basis of residential units or equivalent residential units according to the tap-in fees listed hereinafter. Any fractional units resulting from the calculation of equivalent residential units shall be treated as a whole unit. In addition to the tap-in fees, installation fees shall be charged in accordance with schedules listed hereinafter. All fees and charges shall be paid by the customer or customers at whose request the connection is made.

Water tap-in fees shall be charged as follows:

- Inside the town: Three hundred fifty dollars (\$350.00) for each residential unit or equivalent residential unit.
- Outside the town: Five hundred twenty five dollars (\$525.00) for each residential unit or equivalent residential unit.

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The water tap-in fee for connecting to water mains for irrigation purposes shall be as follows:

		Inside	Outside
		<u>Town Limits</u>	<u>Town Limits</u>
3/4"	Tap	\$ 350.00	\$ 525.00
1"	Tap	\$ 400.00	\$ 600.00
1½"	Tap	\$ 600.00	\$ 900.00
2"	Tap	\$ 900.00	\$ 1,350.00

The water tap-in fee for connecting to water mains for fire protection purposes shall be as follows:

		Inside	Outside
		<u>Town Limits</u>	<u>Town Limits</u>
2"	Tap	\$ 600.00	\$ 900.00
3"	Tap	\$ 800.00	\$ 1,200.00
4"	Tap	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,500.00
6"	Tap	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,800.00
8"	Tap	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 2,100.00
12"	Tap	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 2,400.00

Sewer tap-in fees shall be charged as follows:

Inside the town: Four hundred fifty dollars (\$450.00) for each residential unit or equivalent residential unit.

Outside the town: Six hundred seventy five dollars (\$675.00) for each residential unit or equivalent residential unit.

**Installation Fees**

The Public Works Superintendent may authorize licensed master plumbers or licensed utility contractor to install connections to water or wastewater facilities upon written application. Water meters shall be supplied to authorized licensed master plumbers or licensed utility contractor at cost; all other related accessories for water or sewer connections may also be supplied. The Public Works Superintendent shall require payment of installation fees as listed herein or reimbursement of actual costs for any installations not specifically covered. All work done by other than Town personnel shall be done only under the supervision of licensed master plumbers or licensed utility contractor authorized by the Town to perform such work. The Public Works Superintendent shall require that all installations be performed in accordance with specifications and/or standards conforming to sound engineering practices; in the event that such installation is not made in accordance with specifications

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and/or standards, the Public Works Superintendent shall require the installation to be corrected or removed and reinstalled as necessary.

Water installation fees for making taps into the town water mains or water lines and installing water meters or providing water meters shall be charged on the basis of reimbursement to the town for all actual costs incurred in making such installations.

Sewer installation fees for making connections to the town sewerage system and installing service lines shall be charged on the basis of reimbursement to the town for all actual costs incurred in making such connections.

An inspection fee of one hundred seventy five dollars (\$175.00) for each water connection and one hundred seventy five dollars (\$175.00) for each sewer connection shall be charged when a licensed master plumber makes such connections.

Charges for any installation not covered in standard pricing shall be calculated in accordance with the following schedule:

<b>Type</b>	<b>Basis</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Staging	Per installation	\$ 300.00
Labor	Per hour	\$ 100.00
Backhoe	Per hour	\$ 225.00
Small Backhoe	Per hour	\$ 125.00
Trencher	Per hour	\$ 75.00
Dewatering Pump	Per hour	\$ 45.00
Air compressor	Per hour	\$ 45.00
Tap Water Main	Per inch of Tap diameter	\$ 100.00
Miscellaneous	Actual Cost	-----

All hourly charges shall include travel time to and from the job location. Work performed outside regular business hours at the request of customers shall be charged at 150 % of the rates in the schedule. Miscellaneous charges shall include actual charges for equipment rented to perform the work. The above schedule shall also be used to calculate charges when Town staff or equipment is used on private facilities. The staging charge shall be used for construction but may be waived for other types of work at the discretion of the Public Works Superintendent.

**Section 4.**

**Charges for Miscellaneous Services**

If any action taken by unauthorized persons inside a meter box causes damages to a curb stop or a cover or lock connected to a curb stop, the resident or customer responsible for the premises shall be charged a fee of \$150.00 for each incident in addition to other fees and charges.

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New Account Establishment Fee	\$ 15.00
Residential Meter Deposit (Refundable)	\$ 125.00
Commercial Meter Deposit (Refundable)	\$ 215.00
Late Fee Service Charge (10% of amount billed)	-----
Returned Check Fee	\$ 35.00
Locating Meter	\$ 40.00
Transfer of Service Fee	\$ 50.00
Special Utility Service (14 Calendar days)	\$ 50.00
First Turn-on/Turn off (Within 12 Months)	\$ 0.00
Turn-on/Turn off at Customer Request (No Homeowner Valve) – per Trip ***	\$ 40.00
Turn-on/Turn off at Customer Request (Homeowner Valve) – per Trip	\$ 75.00
Emergency Call Out for Turn-on/Turn off (No Homeowner Valve) – per Trip ***	\$ 60.00
Emergency Call Out for Turn-on/Turn off (Homeowner Valve) – per Trip	\$ 115.00
First Reread (within a 12 month period)	\$ 0.00

Other account fees, service charges and penalties shall be charged s applicable:

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Second and Subsequent Rereads ( within a 12 month period)*	\$ 40.00
After Hours Turn-on (Service application received after 4:00 pm)	\$ 60.00
Emergency Call Out for Turn-on**	\$ 90.00
Remove and Test Meter (If meter reads within manufactures specifications)	\$ 125.00
Remove and Test Meter (If meter reads outside the manufacturers specifications)	\$ 0.00
Turn-off for Delinquency	\$ 40.00
Lock Meter for Delinquency	\$ 75.00
Remove Meter for Delinquency	\$ 100.00
Removal of Straight Line or Jumper	\$ 200.00
Cut off Water at Main	\$ 350.00

- \* Reread fees do not apply if regularly scheduled meter read is determined to be incorrect.
- \*\* Fees apply when water cannot be left on during normally scheduled turn-on times.
- \*\*\* Fee will not be assessed when the turn-on/turn/off is for the installation of a homeowner valve.

**Deposits, Late Fees and Service Charges**

In addition to all other charges, fees or penalties provided for in *Ordinance 03 – 2010 Utilities*, prior to commencement of water, wastewater, and/or garbage service, a consumer shall make a deposit with the town as provided for in the Schedule of Fees. Deposits shall be refundable only after service has been disconnected and all water bills, sewage bills, garbage bills, and other debts due to the town have been paid. Deposits shall remain in the custody of the town during continuation of service. In the event service is discontinued for more than sixty (60) calendar days, the deposit shall be applied to any indebtedness incurred by the consumer to the town. Service shall not be restored to the consumer, until the deposits shall have been reinstituted and brought to the status of current deposits as indicated in the Schedule of Fees.

Each utility bill shall become due and payable by the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the following month. If bills are not paid by the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the following month, a ten (10) percent penalty shall be added on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the month. If the bill is not paid by the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, the bill shall become delinquent and water service shall be discontinued. Water service shall remain discontinued until the user shall have paid all bills then in arrears, together with the 10% penalty, and a reconnection fee as established in the Schedule of Fees. Service may be restored after normal business hours for a service fee. The town will not accept partial payments.

Payment of these fees shall not exempt any user from any civil or criminal action resulting from violations of the *Ordinance 03 – 2010 Utilities*.

**Section 5.**

**Equivalent Residential Units**

An Equivalent Residential Unit is that portion of a user's facility that has an impact on the water and wastewater system equivalent to a single family residence. The determination of a facility's equivalent



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residential units shall be based on estimated water consumption as shown in guidelines below or on square footage. Peak water consumption of three hundred (300) gallons per day or a floor space of three thousand (3,000) square feet, shall be the equivalent of one (1) residential unit.

The method which results in the greater number of equivalent residential units shall be applied. The standards in the table below shall be used in the determination of water consumption. If the table does not provide information for a particular application, the estimated water consumption shall be as calculated by the Public Works Superintendent in accordance with sound engineering practices using information available from South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control (DHEC), United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), or standard reference materials commonly used for estimating flows.

<u>Type of Facility</u>	<u>Water Usage In Gallons Per Day</u>
Assembly Hall	3 per seat
Barber Shop/Beauty Parlor	125 per chair
Boarding House **	100 per room
Bowling Alley	50 per lane
Church	
w/o Day Care or Kindergarten	5 per seat
Correctional Institution	300 per bed
Country Club,	
Recreation Facilities Only	25 per member
Day Care Center, no meals	15 per person
Dental Office	100 per chair
Department Store	25 per employee
Factory	
without showers	25 per employee
with showers	35 per employee
Food Service Establishments (toilets & kitchen) **	
1) Restaurants,	
up to 12 hours/day to 18 hours/day	35 per seat
2) Restaurants,	
that use paper products only	15 per seat
3) Restaurants,	
above 18 hours /day	50 per seat
4) Bar and Cocktail Lounge	30 per seat
5) Drivein Restaurant	35 per car space
6) Carryout Only	35 per 100 sq. ft
plus	15 per employee

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Hospital	
1) Inpatient	300 per bed
2) Outpatient	300 per bed
Hotel, no kitchen	100 per room
Kindergarten, no meals	15 per person
Laundry, Commercial	1000 per machine
Laundry, coin	150 per machine
Lodges	50 per bed
Mobile Home Park	300 per site
Motel, no kitchen	100 per room
Nursing Home	100 per bed
Office	25 per employee
Physician's Office	200 per exam room
Prison	300 per inmate
Schools:	
1) Boarding	100 per person
2) Day, Restrooms Only	12 per person
3) Day, Restrooms, and Cafeteria	16 per person
4) Day, Restrooms, Gyms & Cafeteria	20 per person
Service Stations serving Interstate:	
1) Full Service	425 + 150 per pump
2) Fuel and Oil Only	150 per pump
Service Stations serving other locations:	
1) Full Service	300 + 100 per pump
2) Fuel and Oil Only	100 per pump
Service Stations serving any locations:	
Car Wash	500 per stall
Shopping Center	
(not including food service or laundry)	10 per 100 sq. ft
Stadium	2 per seat
Theater	5 per seat
Travel Trailer Park:	
1) With Independent Water & Sewer Connection	100 per site
2) W/o Independent Water & Sewer Connection	35 per site
Warehouse	10 per 100 sq. ft

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\*\* Add 300 gallons per machine to amount indicated if laundry or dish washing machines are installed.

In the event a facility is made up of more than one smaller component facility, the determination of equivalent residential units shall be calculated as the sum of all components' equivalent residential units.

Notwithstanding, in a case involving a site utilizing its own private water supply and distribution system to multiple locations resulting in the production of domestic type wastewater only, such as employee restrooms and showers, such that reading and maintenance of meters would create excessive costs and hardship in the judgment of the Public Works Superintendent, the Town may bill on flow estimates calculated on the basis of an average flow per employee times the average number of employees at such facility for the recovery of costs of transporting and treating the wastewater.

For any water meter used for purposes of irrigation only, the following table shall be used to determine Equivalent residential units for purposes of establishing fixed charges on monthly bills.

		<u>ERUs</u>
3/4"	Tap	1
1"	Tap	2
1½"	Tap	4
2"	Tap	8

**Section 6.**

**Water Leak Adjustments**

The Water & Wastewater Commissioner shall be authorized to make equitable adjustments in billings one bill, one time, one location every twelve (12) months at the request of the customer. This adjustment does not apply to irrigation systems, toilets, water heaters, or any other plumbing inside the house. Any piping connected to the service line will not be considered for adjustment. Adjustments will be made at 50 percent of total water consumption; excluding the base rate.

*Example:* (Base rate) + 50% X Consumption = Adjusted Bill.

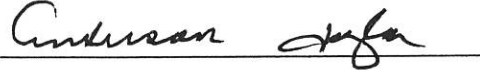
Sewer usage will be calculated using an average calculated from the three (3) months prior to billing adjustment month. If the leak period covers more than one billing period, the adjustment will be given on the current bill, after repairs have been made. Receipts from plumbers or other related contractors must be provided at the time the adjustment is requested along with a written statement of work performed. If the customer repairs the leak; the customer must provide receipts and a written explanation of all work performed. A field check will be made by town water & wastewater staff to

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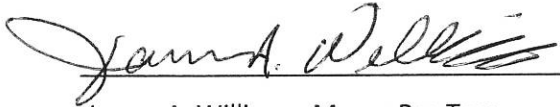
verify that the leak was repaired and also to obtain a current meter reading. Reference: *ORDINANCE 03 – 2010 UTILITIES*.

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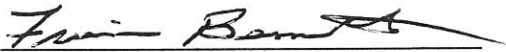
ADOPTED this the 4th day of September 2013



Anderson Taylor, Mayor



James A. Williams, Mayor Pro Tem



Frankie Bennett, Councilman



Corrin F. Bowers, Councilman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rozia L. Burison, Councilwoman

ATTEST:  


Town Administrator

Approved as to Form:

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Town Attorney

First Reading: August 13, 2013

Second Reading: September 4, 2013

Effective Date: September 5, 2013